

# Jeffrey Boakye bio

## Brief

Jeffrey Boakye is an author, broadcaster and educator. He has a particular interest in issues surrounding race, masculinity, education and popular culture.

Jeffrey taught English to 11- to 18-year-olds for 15 years and now provides training for schools, universities and businesses on race, identity, masculinity and education.

Jeffrey's published books are: *Hold Tight: Black Masculinity, Millennials and the Meaning of Grime*, *Black Listed: Black British Culture Explored*, *What is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions* (co-authored), *Musical Truth: A Musical History of Modern Black Britain in 28 Songs* and *I Heard What You Said*.

Jeffrey presents BBC Radio 4's *Add to Playlist* with co-host Cerys Matthews.

[Jeffreyboakye.com](http://Jeffreyboakye.com)

## Short

Jeffrey Boakye is an author, broadcaster and educator. He has a particular interest in issues surrounding race, masculinity, education and popular culture.

Jeffrey, originally from Brixton in London, taught English to 11- to 18-year-olds for 15 years. He now lives in Yorkshire with his wife and two sons.

Jeffrey's published books are: *Hold Tight: Black Masculinity, Millennials and the Meaning of Grime* (2017, longlisted for the Jhalak Prize 2018), *Black Listed: Black British Culture Explored* (2019), *What is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions* (co-authored, 2019, longlisted for the Information Book Awards 2020), *Musical Truth: A Musical History of Modern Black Britain in 28 Songs* (2021, longlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022 and shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize Children's & YA 2022) and *I Heard What You Said* (June 2022).

Jeffrey's upcoming books are: *Musical World* (2023), and a middle grade series starting with *Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer* (2023).

Jeffrey is also a broadcaster, presenting BBC Radio 4's *Add to Playlist* with co-host Cerys Matthews.

Jeffrey continues to be an educator, providing training and talks to schools, educational organisations and corporates around the topics of race, masculinity and education.

[Jeffreyboakye.com](http://Jeffreyboakye.com)  
[@jeffreykboakye](https://www.instagram.com/jeffreykboakye)

## Full

Jeffrey Boakye is an author, broadcaster and educator. He has a particular interest in issues surrounding race, masculinity, education and popular culture.

Jeffrey, originally from Brixton in London, taught English to 11- to 18-year-olds for 15 years. He began teaching in West London, before moving to East London where he established a successful English department at School 21, and then Yorkshire where he now lives with his wife and two sons.

Jeffrey started writing his first book, *Hold Tight: Black Masculinity, Millennials and the Meaning of Grime*, in 2015 when cradling his first born son in the early hours. *Hold Tight* was published in 2017 and is recognised as one of the first seminal books on grime music and was longlisted for the Jhalak Prize 2018. Jeffrey started writing his second book, *Black, Listed: Black British Culture Explored*, when cradling his second born son in the early hours. Published in 2019, *Black, Listed* was praised by David Lammy MP as '[a book that] gives a voice to those whose experience is persistently defined, refined and denied by others'. Jeffrey's third book, *What is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions*, a co-authored book for children on masculinity, was also published in 2019 and was long-listed for the Information Book Awards 2020. Jeffrey broke with tradition and wrote *What is Masculinity* without a baby in his arms. *Musical Truth: A Musical History of Modern Black Britain in 28 Songs*, was published in hardback in June 2021 and longlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022 and shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize Children's and YA 2022. Jeffrey's latest book, *I Heard What You Said* was published in June 2022. Jeffrey's upcoming books are: *Musical World* (2023) and a middle grade fiction series starting with *Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer* (2023).

Jeffrey is also a broadcaster, presenting BBC Radio 4's Add to Playlist with co-host Cerys Matthews. He has also presented two episodes of BBC Radio 4's Word of Mouth and appears on numerous other radio shows and podcasts.

Jeffrey is also an occasional journalist, writing for numerous publications including Writer's Mosaic, The Quietus, The Guardian and The Financial Times.

Jeffrey continues to be an educator. He provides training and talks to school staff and teachers, other educational professionals and students, and corporates on a range of topics, focusing on race, masculinity and education. Jeffrey also provides sessions to school students on modern black British history, race and identity and masculinity.

[jeffreyboakye.com](http://jeffreyboakye.com)  
[@jeffreykboakye](https://www.instagram.com/jeffreykboakye)



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